

*Bill would establish a national monument to all Gold Star Mothers*

Washington, DC - Congressman John Adler, a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, introduced a new bill to establish a national monument to honor mothers who have lost their sons or daughters in military service.

"Since the inception of our nation, brave men and women have battled at home and abroad to protect our safety and freedom," said Congressman Adler, whose district includes Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. "This monument will allow a grateful nation to honor the families of those service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country."

During World War I, mothers hung service flags in the windows of their homes to represent the children they had serving in the war: a blue star symbolized a living service member; a gold star came to represent a son or daughter who lost their life in battle. Today, the name Gold Star Mother refers to any American woman who has lost a son or daughter in service to the United States.

Judith Young of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc New Jersey, said, "The Gold Star Mothers National Monument Act of 2009 is an opportunity to honor those mothers who have given so much - their children who gave up their tomorrows - so that we can enjoy today."

With more than 200,000 American troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, parents all across the country are anxiously waiting for their sons and daughters to return home. This Gold Star monument will pay tribute to their bravery and sacrifice.